

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, new Figure 1A is added, which is an enlarged diagram of relevant portions of originally filed Fig. 1 illustrating a corner connecting the radius of curvature of the roller guide surface to the relief portion; relevant portions of the originally filed Specification are correspondingly amended; and claim 7 is amended to recite features illustrated in Figure 1A and discussed in the Specification. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit no new matter is presented by this Preliminary Amendment.

Personal Interview

Applicants respectfully appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during the personal interview conducted February 10, 2004. The points discussed during the interview are incorporated herein.

However, Applicants wish to note an error in the Examiner Interview Summary. In particular, the Interview summary states Applicants representative asserted the relief portions 15a and 15b originally shown in Figure 1 and in the paragraph bridging pages 8-9 of the originally filed Specification are convex arcs smoothly connected to the concave (roller guide) surface 14. However, Applicants respectfully note that as shown in originally filed Figure 1 and newly submitted Figures 1A, the relief portions 15a and 15b, as well as the roller guide surface 14, are each concave. In other words, the relief portions 15a and 15b are concave, not convex as stated in the Interview Summary Report.

Also, during the interview, Applicants representative, while pointing out the structural differences between the present invention and the disclosure of previously

applied JP '770, noted the paragraph bridging pages 8-9 of the originally filed Specification clearly states that a corner portion connects the radius of curvature R of the roller guide surface 14 to the relief portions 15a and 15b. During the interview, Applicants representative also pointed out the track groove 1a, 1a shown by Figure 3A of JP '770 is not arc shaped and is definitely not smoothly connected to ends of the roller guide surface. Rather, the track groove 1a, 1a shown in Figure 3A of JP '770, while located corresponding to the respective radial ends of the roller 3, are more of a step-shaped feature that is not a smooth arc and is not smoothly connected to the ends of the roller guide surface.

Furthermore, as noted by Applicants' representative during the interview, the track groove 1a shown in Figure 3C of JP '770 is not a relief portion and is not a concave arc smoothly connected to a corner. In Figure 3A of JP '770, the track grooves 1a, 1a are actually portions of the roller guide surface having a different dimension than other portions of the roller guide surface, which make contact with an axial end of the roller 3. In Figure 3C of JP '770, the track groove 1a has a constant dimension and does not deviate towards or away from the axial end of the roller, wherein a "relief or escape portion" would be formed. In other words, there are no relief portions connected to the ends of the roller guide surface as the roller guide surface of Figure 3C for JP '770 appears to have a constant radius.

Moreover, Applicants also note Figure 3C of JP '770 does not teach or suggest a corner connecting the roller guide surface to the track grooves 1a, 1a. Applicants respectfully note the Examiner Interview Summary states the prior art, i.e., JP '770,

does not appear to show such relief portions in Figure 3, i.e., Figs. 3A-C, pending a full review of JP '770.

Applicants also wish to reiterate the statements from the interview that JP '770 does not teach or suggest the contact ratio of the roller to the roller guide surface being 1.02 – 1.20; that JP '770 does not teach or suggest the ratio L_s/d_o of the width (L_s) to an outer diameter (d_o) of the roller is 0.32 or below; and that JP '770 does not teach or suggest the ratio L_s/d_o of the roller is 0.24 to 0.27.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 100725-00040.**

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Figure 1A

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